



Instructional Technology Newsline

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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◆ **Instructional Technology Update**

Technology Literacy Challenge Fund

Late December 17th, State TLCF Coordinators received an e-mail message from Pat Gore of the US Department of Education stating that while the Department had not yet determined how to apply the .38 percent reduction relative to its programs, decisions are expected soon. Nonetheless, the e-mail provided the amount of funds [originally] appropriated for the TLCF program and asserted that states "can (and should) initiate activities to award subgrants competitively to districts." Therefore, districts receiving word of tentative approval in October should be expecting a call from section supervisors. Upon successful completion of the negotiation process, grants can be dated approved October 1, 1999.

To be safe, all first-year grants will undergo a one percent reduction. Since it is unlikely that we will receive our grant award soon, the first payment will not occur before February. Also, please note that two one-half payments will be issued (instead of one-fourth payments described in the Applicant's Guide) – the first upon final approval and the second upon receipt of the Final Expenditure Report.

State Approval of District Technology Plans

All districts with technology plans approved in 1997 or early 1998 should plan to submit new plans for approval. In our December issue, we mentioned that we were planning another massive technology plan review session next spring. The process and dates are now set. Plans submitted

by March 31 will be read by a group of readers, April 10 - 20.

In late December, school technology coordinators should have received a packet of materials with all the details. A group of evaluators will meet in Jefferson City, April 10, for training in how to review and score the technology plans. Each evaluator will be given a number of plans to review at home over the next ten days. Each plan will be read by one outside evaluator; a plan that does not reach the minimum score will be read by a second reader. Approval/non-approval notification letters will be returned to districts on or near May 1, 2000.

Please e-mail Kathy Parris if you are interested in being a technology plan reader.

◆Frequently Asked Questions

“Does the State of Missouri have a computer skills curriculum for K-12?”

Technology is embedded in the Missouri Show-Me Standards, but there is no required computer curriculum. Nonetheless, there are several resources available to help districts in integrating technology into local curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

The Division of Instruction, with assistance from library media specialists across the state, developed in 1996 a companion to the Standards, entitled “K-12 Curriculum and Integrated Information and Technology Literacy Skills.” This was developed to assist the library media specialist in curriculum planning to integrate essential information and technology literacy skills into all areas of the process/performance and content/knowledge areas of the Show-Me Standards. It can be viewed on-line at www.dese.state.mo.us/divinstr/curriculum/literacy/index.htm.

The Division of Vocational and Adult Education, in 1996, developed the document “Computer Competencies K-12.” The competencies have been based on a developmental approach, beginning with concrete, elementary performance expectations and moving students through increasingly difficult levels. The document can be viewed on-line at www.dese.state.mo.us/divvoted/business/Computer.htm.

The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) helped initiate the National Educational Technology Standards for Students (NETS) in 1996—to guide the effective use of technology to support preK-12 education. For information, visit the ISTE web site at: www.cnet.iste.org/splash.htm. Also, the new [National Educational Technology Standards for Students-Connecting Curriculum and Technology](#) presents three dozen lesson plans that guide teachers’ integration of technology standards in preK-12 classrooms. Copies of this new book are now available from ISTE at (800) 336-5191 or www.iste.org/Bookstore.

Mankato Schools in Minnesota developed guidelines to ensure that all graduates receive a variety of experiences using information technology. Visit www.isd77.k12.mn.us to check out Mankato's "Information Literacy Curriculum" and "Computer Skills for Information Problem-Solving" (by Michael B. Eisenberg and Doug Johnson).

"Does the State of Missouri have instruments schools can use to assess their technology programs?"

Below is a list of resources that might be used to assess district, school, and staff readiness and effectiveness in using technology. Compare yourself to other schools of similar size and make-up, compare yourself to a state or national average, or rate your progress toward an established goal/standard.

- *Missouri Educational Technology Plan*
In 1997, as part of Missouri's TLCF application, the Department developed a technology plan of where schools should be by the year 2002. The original plan, listing 5 goals and 21 benchmarks, can be found on our IT web site -- under Federal Technology Grants, TLCF, then State Application and Plan. Each Winter the plan is reviewed using Census of Technology, MSIP, MOREnet, and other data. The December 1999 status report will be included in the new consolidated Technology Grants Applicant's Guide that will be distributed next month.
- *The CEO Forum Report School Technology and Readiness (STaR Chart) Report*, February 1999 (www.ceoforum.org) This report indicates the state of education technology nationwide. The web site has an interactive STaR Chart: an online multiple-choice questionnaire that will provide you with instant feedback on how well your school is doing to integrate technology into the educational process.
- *An Educator's Guide to Evaluating the use of Technology in Schools and Classrooms*, December 1998 (www.ed.gov/pubs/EdTechGuide/) This book describes what to evaluate and how.
- *Technology @ Your Fingertips*, 1998 (www.nces.ed.gov/pubs98/tech/) This book indicates steps to take to identify technology needs, consider options, acquire the technology, and implement a technology solution.
- *From Now On* (www.fno.org) This is a web site hosted by Jamie McKenzie, a nationally recognized expert on educational technology, that offers various articles/resources on technology planning, skills assessment, grants and grant writing, etc.

Individual self-assessment scales in using technology can be found at:

- 1) Profiler is online self-assessment with instant profile of strengths and weaknesses.
www.scrtec.org
- 2) Bellingham, Washington, Schools' adaptation of Mankato Scales, based on Doug Johnson's work out of Mankato Schools, Minnesota.
www.bham.wednet.edu/tcomp.htm

◆ **SuccessLink**

An Internet Resource for Teachers by Michael N. Flynn

"Gosh, that lesson on fractions didn't go very well."

"I don't know where to start in developing lessons for that new class I've been assigned."

"What are some other ways to approach this language arts section?"

These are just a few of the questions teachers struggle with as they go about their teaching career. SuccessLink is striving to provide answers to these and other questions.

By going to www.successlink.org teachers will find lesson plans, units and best practices that have proved to work. They have been developed by Missouri teachers, correlated to the Show-Me Standards, and they are FREE!

You can go to the site and search a number of different ways. Click on the "Search for a Lesson" button, then:

1. Search by subject and grade level. Each has a pull down menu for you to select the area of interest.
2. Search by Show-Me Standard. If you know you need to have some more lessons to support standard CA2, just search for that standard.
3. Search by Key Word. So you're looking for lessons dealing with Shakespeare, type it in and see what's there.
4. Finally, you can search by MSIP standard. You can search for lesson plans and Best Practices to help the counseling committee you are on!

So often we recreate the wheel when we want to do something new and different in our schools and classrooms. Why not use the knowledge and experience from others to help solve those challenges you have experienced? Information is on the web, at your fingertips!

Also, if you have that lesson plan that always works with your kids, why not share it with other teachers. It's easy and you can even win \$100!

Get on the Internet, go to www.successlink.org and see what you can find! While you are there, shoot me an e-mail (mflynn@socket.net) and let me know what you think!

◆TEAMS Distance Learning

Technology Integration for Grades 1 – 8

Many schools have worked hard to build an infrastructure of technology in their buildings. Giant steps have been taken to make sure Missouri students have the necessary tools. The challenge for many teachers is to use this technology to help their students accomplish specific curriculum objectives.

TEAMS Distance Learning is one way to help accomplish that goal. Model teachers present performance based, hands-on lessons in the core subjects for grades 1 – 8. These programs are available via satellite, cable in many areas, public broadcast stations and videotapes. Programs are presented in 5 to 8 lesson modules with each lesson being 30 to 45 minutes long. All of the lessons are very participatory and group oriented.

The programs are very effective in helping teachers integrate technology because they show specific examples of how to use the Internet to help in specific curriculum areas. The TEAMS

Internet web site www.teams.lacoe.edu provides specific activities, projects, and ways to connect with other teachers and students from across the nation.

Other types of technology are also demonstrated and used effectively. They might show how a barometer helps us know what the weather is going to be or how students can e-mail their work, questions or comments to TEAMS for other students to see and discuss. Teachers also have opportunities to discuss a particular aspect of the curriculum via discussion groups on the Internet web site.

Teachers who have used the program comment about the effectiveness, high level of student interest, and how the studio instructors have helped them become better teachers.

Programs are available in science for grades 2 – 7, in geometry and algebra for grades 1 – 8, language arts programs for K – 7 and social studies programs for grades 4-7. TEAMS can provide a boost for that area of the curriculum in which teachers don't have as much confidence or where they know they need to teach in a different manner. There is no cost for Missouri schools to receive the programs and print support materials due to the support of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

For more information about TEAMS in Missouri, contact Mike Flynn (mflynn@socket.net) at SuccessLink.

◆ **Smarter Kids Foundation**

The Smarter Kids Foundation grant has been put in place for Missouri and provides a discount for the SmartBoards school districts can order to make teaching and learning with technology an enjoyable and rewarding experience. The SMARTer Kids Foundation encourages schools to seek matching grants or Challenge grants where available. You may also approach a corporate sponsor or community organization to help you fund your purchase through the SMARTer Biz Kids program. For more information about Biz Kids, visit the web site at www.smarterkids.org/bizkids.htm.

◆ **Learning With Technology**

Featuring Van Buren R-I and Independence 30 School Districts.

Van Buren R-I

Technology Grant Boosts Reading Wellness at Van Buren by Michelle Reagan

It's not about books, it's not about computers, it's not about ABC's. The Read and Explore grant project, in its second year at Van Buren Elementary School, is about reading wellness. It's about inciting children to look to reading as a desirable recreation option and providing them with the proper resources.

Though natural beauty surrounds this secluded, 60-percent government owned land in Carter County, many of the students had not been exposed to the beauty of other cultures outside the Ozarks. Seeing the need to provide topics of intrigue for young readers and the vast opportunities for Internet use, the technology and cultural awareness issues were combined for the Read and Explore program.

"The emphasis is on the product, not the process," Read and Explore Coordinator Valerie Foerster said. "It's not so much having the skill to say the 'B' sound, but to be able to read the 'book.' And with the various cultures in this world, it's more than knowing the facts and figures,

but also realizing it's a way of life for others."

With students displaying their own view of foreign cultures at a fair held quarterly, guest speakers giving first-hand accounts of foreign lands, exchanging e-mail with a former foreign exchange student from Japan and, most importantly, researching the many information outlets on the Internet, Van Buren Elementary students are increasing their reading wellness by choosing to read for recreation and interest as well as increasing their cultural awareness of places and people beyond the boundaries of the Ozarks.

Independence 30

When the two new middle schools in the Independence school district opened several years ago, the TLCF grant "HyperStudio: One More Way to Communicate" was there to welcome the teachers and students. The project provided these middle school teachers with technology and training, and after participating in the two-year project students and teachers have found that HyperStudio is an effective way to communicate ideas and concepts. To help the teachers as they integrated HyperStudio into the curriculum, the district utilized "Profiler" from SCR*TEC (www.scrtec.org/) and the StaR Chart from CEO Forum (www.ceoforum.org). One of the most important outcomes of the project is the emphasis the principals now put on technology integration into the curriculum. To find out more about the project, contact Marcia Haskin at 816/521-2700 or the Independence school district's web site at www.indep.k12.mo.us.

◆ Mark Your Calendar

January

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| 1 | Happy New Year! |
| 17 | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (State Offices Closed) |

February

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| 11 | Lincoln's Birthday Day (State Offices Closed) |
| 15 | Technology Manuals mailed to school districts |
| 21 | Washington's Birthday (State Offices Closed) |

◆ Upcoming 2000 Conferences

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|-------------------------|--|
| January 27-28 | Grants & Funding for School Technology Conference
New Orleans, LA
www.eschoolnews.org/gf |
| February 22-24 | Consortium on School Networking: K-12 School Networking Conference
Lowe's L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, Washington, DC
202/466-6296
www.cosn.org |
| February 22-25 | The 20th Annual Role of Technology in Education Conference
St. Charles, IL
847/419-5065 |
| February 28-
March 2 | Florida Educational Technology Conference (FETC)
Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, FL
850/894-3810
FETC@netally.com; www.fetc.org |
| March 2-4 | Kentucky Teaching and Learning Conference
Louisville, KY
502/564-7168
lsledge@kde.state.ky.us |
| March 8 | Regional Consortium for Education and Technology (RCET) - Southwest |

	University Plaza Hotel, Springfield, MO 417/895-2722 www.orion.org/ed/rcet/index.html
March 13-15	Midwest Education and Technology Conference America's Center, St. Louis, MO 314/692-1250 christin@info.csd.org
March 30-31	The National School Technology Leadership Conference Austin, TX www.eschoolnews.org/stlc
June 26-28	National Educational Computing Conference "Connecting @ the Crossroads" Atlanta, GA www.neccsite.org

◆Monthly Grant Writing Tip

January—If you have been following Sheila Perry's plan the past several months, you should have rough copies of five sections finished: Planning, Needs, Goals and Objectives, Research and Introduction. Hopefully Santa brought you a new computer for Christmas. If not, they are probably still on sale this month. Go treat yourself; you deserve it and will need it!

At the January meeting, Sheila passes around the introductions and lets other teachers read them. Do they make sense? Do you understand what the writer is asking for? Did the writer mention some of the main purchases and activities? Follow the grant guidelines carefully on this part. You do not want to lose your reader before he or she sees what a wonderful grant you have.

For February, work on the Activities/Dissemination Section. This section describes (paints a picture of) the solution to the need, provides a timetable of the activities that will accomplish the goals and objectives, indicates who will do what, when, why. Include information on how you will share the project with community.

◆Internet Sites of Interest

Parent Smart (www.parentsmart.com)

This web site is a guide to the Internet about how you can help your child in school.

USA TODAY Education Program (www.education.usatoday.com)

This web site offers students and teachers a daily, cross-curriculum guide to the key stories in the day's newspapers. It helps students grasp the full meaning and implications of events beyond the classroom.

Gateway To Educational Materials (GEM) (www.gateway.org)

This web site allows teachers to search by topic, grade level and other data for lessons, curricular units and other free materials from more than 140 Web sites.

The Apple Learning Exchange (ALI) (www.ali.apple.com)

This is a free on-line resource for teaching, learning, research and collaboration. ALI is a tool for creating and sharing curriculum resources and building a worldwide community of people committed to finding ways to teach with technology.

Free Resources for Educational Excellence (www.edgov/free)

This web site brings together learning resources from more than 40 federal agencies.

Good Sources of Software Review

- Teaching and Learning Magazine (www.techlearning.com)
- Classroom Connect (www.classroom.com)
- Curriculum Administrator (www.edmediausa.com)
- Converge (www.convergemag.com)

◆ **From the Mailbag**

"News of the Century" Student Competition

USA TODAY Education and online partner Copernicus Interactive have announced the launch of the "News of the Century" contest in which US students, grades 4-12, who are randomly assigned one year of the 20th century, will report on the national, international, financial, sports and weather related news that had the greatest impact that year. Deadline for entries is March 31, 2000. Official Contest Rules are available at www.newsofthecentury.com.

The Amazing Picture Machine Web Site

The Amazing Picture Machine web site (www.ncrtec.org/picture.htm) was created by NCRTEC (North Central Regional Technology in Education Consortium) to help educators easily find graphic resources on the World Wide Web.

Teachers and students can find pictures and maps from web sites around the world by typing a subject into The Amazing Picture Machine web site. The NCRTEC search engine then combs its extensive list of Internet graphics and displays a web page with descriptions of pictures and clickable links to those pictures.

ED, MCI Plan Technology Web Site for Teachers

The US Education Department announced its plans for a new, comprehensive web site that will offer classroom-technology training to teachers in seven states along the Mississippi Delta. A teacher training kit on using the Internet in the classroom is available online, free of charge to teachers from all 50 states, at MCI's Marco-Polo site: www.wcom.com/marcopolo.

"Save Our History" is the History Channel's award-winning national campaign dedicated to historic preservation and history education. As part of this initiative The History Channel produces documentaries and corresponding teaching materials for educators free of charge." Save Our History: The Missouri River: A Journey With Stephen Ambrose. Airdate February 4, 2000 "This on-hour documentary explores the historic and environmental significance of the Missouri River in the development of the United States. In addition to tracing the history of the Missouri River...exercises help students understand the challenges inherent in managing a natural resource like the Missouri and the difficulty in balancing the interests of various groups." Obtain more information and free teacher materials from their website www.HistoryChannel.com or call toll-free 1-877-87 LEARN or fax the Educational Department at 212-551-1540.